

Remarks

Objections to the Claims

The Examiner has objected to the preamble of claim 22 as too broad. The Applicants have amended the preamble of claim 22 to overcome the Examiner's objection. The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to claim 22.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9 and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over published Japanese patent application JP 2002-059559 listing Yasunari as an inventor (hereinafter referred to as Yasunari) in view of what the Examiner asserts to be "a well known feature in the ink jet printer art" (from page 4 of the current office action). The Applicants do not concede that what the Examiner asserts to be "a well know feature" is in fact "well known".

Rejections of Claims 1-9 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Applicants respectfully request careful consideration of the following arguments traversing the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). On page 3 of the current office action the Examiner seems to assert that paragraphs [0048] to [0051] disclose subject matter upon which the limitations of "a first drive mechanism to move the first array of fluid-ejection mechanisms between a first position to eject fluid onto the media and a second position at the first service station *while the second array of fluid-ejection mechanisms ejects fluid onto the media in place of the first array of fluid-ejection mechanisms*" (emphasis added) read. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

For example, Yasunari discloses, in paragraph [0048] "black print head unit 21" and "color print head unit 22" Furthermore, Yasunari discloses, in paragraph [0049] that "the head unit holder 23 for black and the head unit holder 24 for colors are engaging with the sliding mechanism 29 independently, respectively." The Examiner seems to be asserting that "the first array of fluid-

ejection mechanism" reads upon one of "black print head unit 21" and "color print head unit 22" and that "the second array of fluid-ejection mechanisms" reads upon the other one of "black print head unit 21" and "color print head unit 22".

However, the Applicants could not locate any teaching or suggestion in the cited sections of Yasunari that disclose that "the first array of fluid-ejection mechanisms" moves "between a first position to eject fluid onto the media and a second position at the first service station while the second array of fluid-ejection mechanisms ejects fluid onto the media in place of the first array of fluid-ejection mechanisms". (emphasis added) That is, the cited sections of Yasunari do not appear to teach or suggest that the "black print head unit 21" can "eject fluid onto the media in place of" "color print head unit 22". As referenced in paragraph [0050], drawing 5(a) appears to show "[c]olor printing according only the color print head unit 22, drawing 5(b) appears to show "[m]onochrome printing according only to the black print head unit 21", and drawing 5(c) appears to show "color printing performed using both the black print head unit 21 and the color print head unit 22". Clearly, for "black print head unit 21", "black ink" can be "breathed out" and for "color print head unit 22", "ink of yellow, a [m]agenta, and cyanogens" can be "breathed out" (please refer to paragraph [0037] of Yasunari). But, as disclosed in Yasunari, "black print head unit 21" does not appear to be able to "breath out" yellow ink, cyan ink or magenta ink and therefore cannot "eject fluid onto the media in place of" "color print head unit 22". Therefore, for at least this reason, the Applicants contend that a valid prima facie obviousness rejection of claim 1 has not been made.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 2-9 are dependent, either directly or indirectly, upon claim 1 and thereby incorporate all the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, for at least the reason that a valid prima facie obviousness rejection of claim 1 has not been made, a valid prima facie obviousness rejection of claims 2-9 has not been made. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claim 2-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Rejections of Claims 15-18 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

As stated by the Examiner on page 7 of the office action regarding claim 15, "[t]his claim is a combination of claims 1 and 2, and is rejected on the basis as set forth for claims 1 and 2 discussed above." Claim 15 has been amended so that it now includes the limitations of "the first array ejects fluid onto the media while the second array is being serviced, and the second array ejects fluid onto the media, ***in place of the first array***, while the first array is being serviced". (emphasis added) As similarly explained in detail in the arguments supporting traversal of the rejection of claim 1, the sections of Yasunari cited in support of the rejection do not disclose the above recited limitations of the amended claim 15. Therefore, for at least this reason, the Applicants contend that a valid prima facie obviousness rejection of the amended claim 15 in view of Yasunari has not been made.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of the amended claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 16-18 are dependent, either directly or indirectly, upon the amended claim 15 and thereby incorporate all the limitations of the amended claim 15. Therefore, for at least the reason that a valid prima facie obviousness rejection has not been made for the amended claim 15, a valid prima facie obviousness rejection of claims 16-18 has not been made. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 10-14 under U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Yasunari. To advance prosecution the Applicants have amended claim 10 to include the limitations of a "means for ejecting fluid onto the media, ***in place of the first array***, while the first array of fluid-ejection mechanisms is at the first service station in the second position for servicing". (emphasis added). As similarly explained in detail in the arguments supporting traversal of the rejection of claim 1, the sections of Yasunari cited in support of the rejection do not disclose the above recited limitations of the amended claim 10. Therefore,

for at least this reason, the Applicants contend that the amended claim 10 is not anticipated by Yasunari.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of the amended claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claims 11-14 are dependent, either directly or indirectly, upon the amended claim 10 and thereby incorporate all the limitations of the amended claim 10. Therefore, for at least the reason that the amended claim 10 is not anticipated by Yasunari, claims 11-14 are not anticipated by Yasunari. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

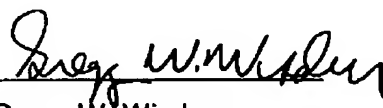
Allowed Subject Matter

Claims 19-27 have been allowed by the Examiner.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully contend that the subject application is in a condition for allowance. Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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